

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN MURPHY



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

ORDER A HEARING TO ADDRESS THE CURRENT LIFEGUARD SHORTAGE AFFECTING THE BCYF'S POOLS

- WHEREAS,** After multiple heat waves and an unprecedented lack of rainfall, Boston has experienced one of the warmest and driest summers on record. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor's weekly report, released on August 25, roughly 96 percent of the state experienced severe drought conditions at some point this summer. So far this year, there have been 24 days when the temperature was 90 or above, marking the sixth-highest number of days in one year at 90 and above in Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Last month was the hottest August on record in Massachusetts according to annual statewide data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) manages 17 indoor pools, two outdoor pools, and three beaches in the City; *and*
- WHEREAS,** At the very start of the summer, only seven of the 19 pools were open, and the three beaches located at the Curley Community Center in South Boston were closed; *and*
- WHEREAS,** According to the Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF), the four pools closed due to staffing shortages were the Hennigan Community Center Pool in Jamaica Plain, the Marshall Community Center Pool in Dorchester, the Perkins Community Center Pool in Dorchester, and the Condon Community Center Pool in South Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Only two of the seven opened pools were located in neighborhoods with an area median income lower than the city's average: the Mason Pool in Roxbury and the pool inside the Leahy-Holloran Community Center in Dorchester. In the South End and West Roxbury, no public pools were open at one point; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These closures were a disservice to residents, prohibiting several neighborhoods from city services like recreational swimming and aquatic lessons, especially in one of Boston's hottest and driest summers to date; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to address and brainstorm solutions for the lifeguard labor shortage affecting pools managed by the Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) in order to ensure equitable city services to all city residents. Representatives from the Boston Centers for Youth and Families, Workforce Development, members of the Community Centers, the BCYF foundation, neighborhood organizations, and members of the public shall be invited to attend.

Filed in Council: September 21st, 2022